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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

HamVotes ambassador team targets student civic engagement ahead of midterm elections

by Natalie Halpin '21
Contributing Writer

Last spring, Hamilton students, faculty members, and administrators formed a nonpartisan campus organization with the goal of helping students navigate the political process and increasing political engagement on the Hill. In addition to its main committee, HamVotes has an ambassador group made up of students who hope to assist their peers with voter registration and civic education, with the goal of increasing voter turnout and ballot access for the 2018 midterm elections and beyond.

The group once consisted primarily of Hamilton faculty and advisors, but has recently increased its inclusivity by allowing students to participate and help their classmates vote in confidence. Nicole Taylor '19, chair to the HamVotes ambassador team, joined the main committee, consisting of Phyllis Breland, Kaity Stewart, Lisa Magnarelli, Tessa Chefalo, and Phil Klinkner, last spring after demonstrating her passion about campus voter registration through her work at the nonpartisan, nonprofit Campus Vote Project. The main committee worked on recruiting the student ambassador team, eventually selecting a diverse group of twelve individuals who are passionate about civic engagement. Now, they are open for general membership and in search of committed student members.

Using TurboVote, a company that notifies registered voters when an election is coming up and provides them with information about candidates (as well as official state registration forms), the student ambassadors hope to simplify the voting process by assisting students in properly filling out their voter registration form and requesting absentee ballots. TurboVote is a helpful tool for HamVotes, since 70 percent of Hamilton's student body resides out-of-state when not on campus, which means absentee ballots are in high demand. Both TurboVote and HamVotes are nonpartisan organizations; the student ambassadors' main goal is to provide students with the tools they need to make an informed decision.

Taylor says the inspiration for becoming involved in promoting civic engagement stems from discussing politics with her classmates in the fall of 2015 while the primaries were taking place ahead of the 2016 presidential election. She describes being surprised to find out that many of them had never been registered to vote. She began registering them and helping them to "fill out their forms and mailing it in with them." That was when she realized that there was need for this effort on Hamilton's campus derived from a misconception that "because we are Hamilton students, we are super informed and know how to do everything." In using TurboVote and facilitating easy access to helpful voting resources, HamVotes' student ambassadors hope to make the voting process seem less daunting and more easily navigable.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMVOTES

The HamVotes ambassador team conducts a registration drive for first-year students as they matriculate

Each member of the student team participates in outreach to individual campus organizations, and this semester they are also disseminating information at all-campus events. Additionally, Resident Advisors have partnered with HamVotes representatives to help students with their voting plan by hosting events in residential buildings. Larger events for the future include a travelling voter registration drive on National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 25, which occurs before every state's registration deadline, as well as a table at the upcoming comedy show featuring Mike Birbiglia. Their website which provides links for easy TurboVote access is http://students.hamilton.edu/hamvotes/home.

Taylor reminds the students that, "Your vote is your voice", and that the HamVotes ambassadors can be reached at hamvotes@hamilton.edu.

Late Night Jitney asks students to swipe Hill Cards on ride back to campus

by Duncan Freeman '22
Contributing Writer

The College maintains a vital relationship with the town of Clinton. On weekend nights, the Late Night Jitney often acts as the mobile representation of that connection. For those students over the age of 21, it is a necessary link to the downtown area of Clinton, turning a 20-minute walk into an approximately five-minute ride. Many students use the Late Night Jitney in order to go to bars or restaurants in Clinton on the weekend as this service is regarded by many to be the best and most cost-effective option for those who do not want to drive.

Until recently, the Late Night Jitney has required Hamilton students to swipe their Hill Cards when riding down into Clinton. This was in order to collect the $1 fee for the Jitney as well as to verify that riders were Hamilton students over the legal drinking age. According to a new policy this year, however, students will have to swipe their cards on the way back to campus as well.

According to Noelle Niznik, the College's Director of Student Activities, this policy change was made in an effort to better facilitate data collection on the Jitney's use. She says: "We are tracking ridership for the service and in order to get consistent numbers we need to swipe/tap students going down and coming back up."

Initially, students were wary of this change, fearing that students under 21 would not be permitted to ride up to campus on the Late Night Jitney, or would be "caught" by the College as being underage and in the proximity of bars on weekend nights. In the past, all students were allowed to take the Late Night Jitney back to campus regardless of age. This policy was important to many underage students who could find it difficult getting back up the Hill when in Clinton late at night, and as such, the policy is unchanged. According to Niznik: "The students that are under 21 and riding back to campus are now part of the data that we will look at when we look at utilization as a whole." In other words, this effort is not an attempt to catch underage students, but rather part of a larger data collection initiative.

Students worried that a swipe going up the Hill will cost them an additional dollar need not worry; not only will students continue to be able to ride up for free, but the $1 fare to ride from campus into town has also been eliminated. Niznik says this is because "[the fare] wasn't helping offset the cost of the service. Additionally, we don't charge students to ride back to campus so it wasn't a consistent practice."

Other students expressed concern over longer loading and travel times due to the increased amount of swipes. Excluding a minor incident on the first weekend of the semester, Niznik says these problems have so far been avoided. Thanks to the Hill Cards' new "tap" feature, loading is quicker and easier. Also, student ride-alongs, who conduct Hill Card swiping, are allowed to collect student swipes while the Late Night Jitney is moving or even when students exit the bus at any of its stops.

Upon learning the full details behind these changes to the Late Night Jitney, most students have been excited about the new policy, expressing indifference at the prospect of swiping an additional time going up the Hill and appreciation for the elimination of the $1 fee on the way down. It may not seem like a lot, but for college students, every dollar counts.

Resident reptile: ball python snake found by startled student in Bundy East

by Sarah Salimi '20
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, Aug. 28, a ball python snake measuring between four and five feet was found in a room in the Bundy East residence hall by a student resident. The student, who wishes to remain anonymous, became aware of the reptile at approximately 9 AM that morning. Initially, she says she could not make out what it was, saying that she thought the animal to be fake and left in jest by friends. She says she was not alarmed.

At approximately 11 AM, however, when she poked the creature with a coat hanger and it proceeded to move, she contacted Campus Safety and Facilities. Upon realizing the situation at hand, Ground Manager Donald Croft took charge of the extraction, working with his team to secure the animal in a bag so that it could be transported from the residence hall. The team then contacted the Utica Zoo, who referred college personnel to the Woodhaven Wildlife Center, a wildlife rehabilitation center located in Chadwicks, NY. According to Director of Campus Safety Francis Coots, the snake is no longer on campus, although its new location is unknown.

The reptile in question was not from the wild, but was instead the domestic companion of a male Hamilton student, who also wishes to remain anonymous. He did not register the animal with the College and was housing it in secrecy. At this point, it is unclear how long he had been in possession of the snake while in residence at the College, as well as his motivations for keeping the animal.

Coots described the response of students within Bundy East to the reptile as "mixed." He recalls that some students were "rightfully" alarmed but that many also proved quite helpful, offering Campus Safety and Facilities useful information in their extraction efforts.

Resident Advisor for Bundy East Zhaosen Guo '21 declined to comment, citing privacy and neutrality concerns. "Given the fact that this case is a policy violation, I believe it would be in my advisees' best interest to keep what I know private," she said. "Furthermore, as a RA of Bundy East, providing my perspective on this matter would be inappropriate: my goal is to make sure everyone involved in this case is feeling safe and supported in our community, and by giving my opinion, I would lose my neutrality and professionalism as a RA." Guo added that his objective was not to "discourage coverage on important campus issues."

With regards to potential disciplinary action, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Jeffrey Landry declined to speak on this particular incident. Instead, he cited the section entitled "Pets" from the College's Student Handbook, which reads: "Cats, dogs, birds or other animals are not allowed in the residence halls without prior authorization. Fish tanks up to 15 gallons are the only exception to this policy. If this policy is violated, disciplinary action may be taken, and the animal will be removed from the residence hall." Landry did say that in past years, "students have been held accountable for unauthorized pets."

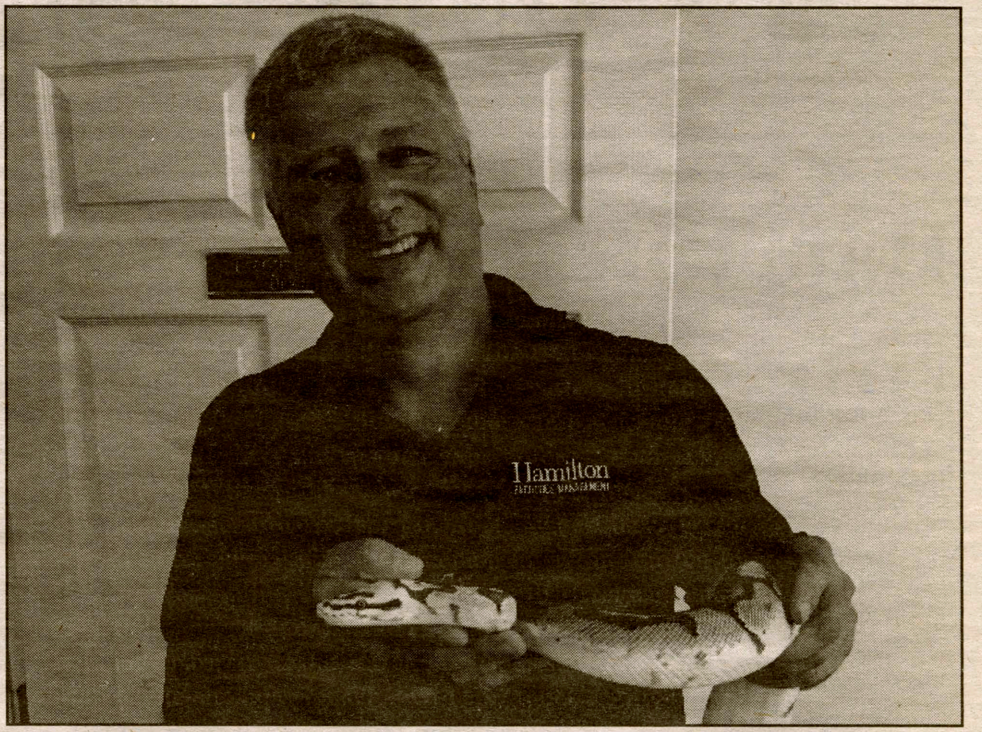

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCIS COOTS

A photograph from Francis Coots' Twitter account showing Grounds Manager Donald Croft holding the snake

Speaking generally on the situation, Coots suggested that there are several lessons to be learned. "We have a responsibility to our neighbors," he said, urging all students to contact the office of Allen Harrison, Associate Dean of Students for Multicultural Affairs and Accessibility Services, if they wish to keep pets on campus. He explained that the only animals that may be brought to or kept on Hamilton's campus are those housed in academic buildings, and those registered as service or support animals. Finally, he urged all students to contact Campus Safety to report anything they may perceive to be unusual or suspicious, saying, "We want every student to feel comfortable—that's our goal. And, even if we are unsure about a specific policy, we can assist students to find where that policy is located."

College approaches settlement with former student in lawsuit filed against trustees

by Amanda Kim '21
News Editor

On Aug. 28, a notice revealed that Hamilton College is in settlement discussions with an ex-student who had previously filed a lawsuit against the College trustees. The case began on Oct. 30, 2017, when a former student, who is male, filed a complaint against the College in the Northern District Court of New York. The plaintiff, who uses the pseudonym "John Doe" in legal proceedings, was expelled in the spring of 2017, twelve days before his graduation, for allegations of sexual misconduct that were said to have occurred three years prior. The allegations were brought to the College by four of John Doe's female peers.

In his complaint, John Doe alleged that Hamilton College had both discriminated against him on the basis of gender and also violated his right to due process. The plaintiff wrote that the College's sexual misconduct policy is "insufficient to protect the rights of accused male students," and that it "affords the women who accuse a presumption of truth, blamelessness, and the full weight of institutional support." The suit also claimed that this "insufficient" policy places an unfair burden on male students who have been accused of sexual misconduct to defend themselves in proceedings.

The plaintiff went on to argue that the College "fail[ed] to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation," asserting that there was no proof John Doe had committed any of the transgressions of which he was accused and that his expulsion was "unwarranted." Of the four allegations brought against John Doe, he was found not responsible for one. Two of the others were never adjudicated, as the claimants withdrew their statements shortly after Doe was removed from campus.

Though he was found responsible in the fourth case of sexual misconduct, Doe argues that his guilt was "erroneously concluded" because the claimant's story was never found to be accurate and that it was instead found that she was "incapacitated" due to alcohol consumption and therefore unable to properly consent to sexual activity. The plaintiff asserts that in this fourth case, he was denied the right to fair and just proceedings because the claimant's story "lacked credibility" and the guilty verdict was based on an assumption that she was not able to consent, for which the plaintiff says that there was "no evidence." Therefore, Doe argues, the College demonstrated "substantial procedural errors in violation of Title IX and other federal and state laws."

The suit also accuses the College of changing its sexual misconduct investigation procedures in response to the Obama administration's Title IX recommendations, which have since been rolled back under the Trump administration. President Obama's guidance lowered the standard of proof needed in order for the College to use disciplinary action and transformed the former formal hearings into investigations. The plaintiff stated that not only do these guidelines produce discriminatory verdicts, but also that the College further acted in ways that were "arbitrary and capricious" in an effort to prove that it was cracking down on campus sexual assault cases. The complaint alleged that "it was not until the 2016–17 academic year — the year following the most vocal criticism of Hamilton's failure to expel men found responsible for sexual misconduct — that Hamilton expelled students found responsible for non-consensual sex."

John Doe also argued that Vice President and Dean of Students Terry Martinez disregarded the Review Panel's recommended punishment of a five-year suspension and instead "increased the sanction and expelled John Doe."

The suit finished with a claim that the plaintiff was harmed both financially and socially, alleging that his future has been jeopardized due to his lack of a degree in spite of having completed four years of coursework. It also claimed that he was "ostracized" by the Hamilton community in response to the allegations and that John Doe was "forever damaged emotionally by the excruciating and unfair process and the terribly unjust results flowing therefrom."

The representative of the College in the case of John Doe v. The Trustees of Hamilton College wrote to Magistrate Judge Andrew T. Baxter, who has presided over the proceedings, that "the parties are continuing to work toward a settlement of this action." The representatives of the defendant and plaintiff have exchanged settlement proposals since the mediation that was held on June 29, 2018. The representative of the College trustees said that they are "continuing those discussions."

The Spectator will continue to provide updates on the situation as they become available.

College to honor and celebrate the memory of late professor Robert Simon

by Betsy Ramirez '19
Contributing Writer

Robert "Bob" Simon, the Walcott-Bartlett Professor of Philosophy Emeritus and cherished community member, passed away on May 31, 2018. A celebration to commemorate his life will be held on Saturday, September 9 at 4 PM in the College Chapel. The event is open to the public and will include remembrances by family, friends, Hamilton alumni, and colleagues.

Simon was renowned for his work on the topic of sports ethics. He was named one of the "100 Most influential Sports Educators" by the Institute of International Sport in 2007. In 2016, *The Journal of the Philosophy of Sports* dedicated their whole issue (a practice known as a "Festschrift") to honor Simon's career, featuring some of his best known works and the praise of his colleagues and peers. In the issue, editor R. Scott Kretchmar, wrote on"the remarkable influence that Bob Simon has had on our field."

Over the course of his nearly 50-year career at Hamilton, Simon was recognized with a plethora of distinctions such as the Samuel & Helen Lang Prize for Excellence in Teaching and the Distinguished Service Award from the Hamilton Alumni Association, among others. He was also elected President of the Philosophic Society for the Study of Sport and inducted into the Kirkland Sports Hall of Fame.

From 1986 to 2000, Simon coached the Hamilton men's golf team, which competed in the 1998 NCAA Division III National Championship, and was often nationally ranked. In 2017, President Wippman announced that a new golf practice facility would be built and named in Simon's honor.

Simon was an expert and accomplished professional in the field of philosophy, but community members say one of his most remarkable and esteemed gifts was his ability to foster genuine connections with the people he came into contact with. Whether it was amongst students, colleagues, family, or friends he was regarded as an attentive, caring, and positive person to be around.

Associate Professor of Philosophy and chair of the department Katheryn Doran, who worked alongside Simon for 28 years, had this to say about his influence: "Bob was a smart, delightful, and inspiring colleague from whom generations of people in the department saw the most important pedagogical virtues in action every day. He was crystal clear in reconstructing sophisticated arguments, open to and generous with critics of the positions he was defending, and happy to continue conversations with students and faculty alike after (and then again before) class."

As a philosopher, professor, friend, and colleague, Simon was repeatedly described as being "transformative." The ceremony in the Chapel will be an opportunity to come together and share memories of his legacy and attest to the impression he left on the community.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency, *The Spectator* publishes a selection of the previous week's incidents each Thursday. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* use discretion regarding what is published.

Wednesday, August 29

2:18 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Bundy West
4:55 A.M. Detail – Facilities Management
6:06 P.M. Student Lockout – 1 Anderson Road
6:32 P.M. Medical Emergency – Scott Field House
8:29 P.M. Animal Complaint – Beinecke Village

Thursday, August 30

2:06 A.M. Area Check – Sadove Student Center
3:47 P.M. Medical Emergency – C. A Johnson
10:14 P.M. Noise Complaint – Bundy West
10:57 P.M. Concern for Welfare – South Hall
11:19 P.M. Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall

Friday, August 31

12:05 A.M. Suspicious Activity – South Campus
12:59 A.M. Area Check – South Campus
2:28 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Major Hall
10:30 A.M. Motor Vehicle Accident – Commons Dining Hall
4:17 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Scott Field House
4:42 P.M. Maintenance Call – Beinecke Village
6:01 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Scott Field House
7:56 P.M. Area Check – North Parking Lot
9:18 P.M. Found Property – Campus Safety Building

Saturday, September 1

12:59 A.M. Medical Emergency – Sadove Student Center
10:54 P.M. Medical Emergency – Dunham Hall
8:24 P.M. Complaint – Beinecke Village
8:37 P.M. Complaint – Elihu Root House
9:19 P.M. Complaint – Campus Safety Building
11:15 P.M. Medical Emergency – Dunham Hall
11:16 P.M. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
11:18 P.M. Noise Complaint – McIntosh Hall

Sunday, September 2

12:11 A.M. Complaint – Bundy Circle
12:16 A.M. Area Check – Root Glen
12:40 A.M. Fire Alarm – Babbitt Hall
2:02 A.M. Detail – Woolcott House
2:46 A.M. Concern for Welfare – Campus Safety Building
10:28 P.M. Concern for Welfare – Campus Safety Building
11:56 A.M. Concern for Welfare – Bundy West
6:21 P.M. Trouble Alarm – South Hall
11:29 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Rogers Estate

Monday, September 3

12:51 A.M. Area Check – Dunham Parking Lot
1:19 A.M. Tow Vehicle – On Campus
3:59 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Keehn Hall
4:03 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Rogers Estate
11:06 P.M. Maintenance Call – Root Hall
12:33 P.M. Maintenance Call – Wertimer House
11:57 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Rogers Estate

Tuesday, September 4

7:38 A.M. Detail – Facilities Management
7:48 A.M. Student Lockout – Morris House

The task ahead

Last Thursday, Aug. 30, Dean Martinez sent out an all-campus email alerting the community to "a report of an alleged incident of non-consensual sexual misconduct that occurred in one of our residence halls on the night/early morning of August 24/25." This is not the first time we have received such an email, and it will not be the last.

The information in the most recent incident email also states that, "At the request of the reporting student, the College has contacted the New York State Police." Subsequently, we now know that on Aug. 30, a Hamilton student was arrested and charged with felony third-degree criminal sexual act, according to a report by *Syracuse.com*.

As a campus publication responsible for covering the Hamilton community, we spent the last week beginning to reach out to the appropriate sources in an effort to provide a comprehensive overview of the response from the student body and administration to this incident. Given the gravity of the event in question, and out of respect for the discretion required to ensure effective sexual misconduct policies, we have chosen hold off on publishing this article until next week, when we feel that we will be able to present a more informative, fair, and sensitive piece.

In last week's editorial, we posed the challenge of asking critical questions of the community to "gain a better understanding of what our Hamiltonian identity is at this moment." Such a task is difficult because of incidents like the one that occurred last week. It is neither comfortable nor reassuring to confront the realities of sexual misconduct within any group, let alone one as small and familiar as ours. Still, it is essential. We intend to continue to address this topic and others like it within our means and with an eye towards progress, and we expect most — if not all — of the community will do the same.

As Dean Martinez also suggested in her email, it is always a good idea to take the opportunity to review the College's sexual misconduct policy and the resources available — both of which can be found on the Hamilton College website — should you or anyone you know need help. We remain engaged and here for one another.

Best,

The Spectator

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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***The Spectator* is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely, and high-quality publication.**

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Celebrating 171 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1847.*

The Spectator

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Sexual misconduct at Hamilton: acceptance of the unacceptable at the Village Tavern

by Gavin Meade '20
Opinion Editor

From the hiring of a new Director of Community Standards and Title IX Coordinator, Catherine Berryman, to the myriad of Title IX trainings conducted around campus by Corinne Smith '17, it is apparent to anyone paying attention that Hamilton is pouring resources into combatting the insidious issue of sexual misconduct and assault on campus. The administration's initiatives and undertakings are admirable, but unless their efforts are matched, or ideally surpassed, by the student body, then there will be no tangible shift in Hamilton's culture. The work currently being done by Hamilton Sexual Assault Violence Education and Support (SAVES), Student Assembly (SA), and the countless other efforts of my peers is laudable and important, but I believe that there is a gaping oversight in the conversation surrounding sexual misconduct.

A dialogue about the social scene Hamilton students engage in is not complete without discussing the culture of rampant substance abuse. The knee-jerk reaction to anyone who raises questions about college students and substance abuse is something to the tune of: "It's college, it's just how it goes." Baloney. It doesn't have to be that way.

Regardless, that isn't a hill that I'm willing to die on. Without touching the substance abuse issues themselves, it is important, in my opinion, to put serious and careful thought into the physical spaces where students are imbibing. It is my contention that these spaces in general, but specifically the Village Tavern, create predatory environments that are breeding grounds for sexual misconduct and are a Hamilton-specific problem.

I remember in the first few weeks of my first fall semester at Hamilton trying to get a grasp of what my college party life would look like. My friends and I quickly learned that generally, and yes I am making a generality, students who choose to party on the weekends drink up the Hill and then make their way downtown to the bars.

I was informed that there are two bars that Hamilton students go to — Don's Rok and the Village Tavern (colloquially known as the "Rok" and "VT", respectively). The Rok was coined a "dive bar" where the "townies" hung out and not many people frequented. The VT was the "fun bar", where you went to see your friends and to get laid. I don't think that my experience was unique; the majority of students that I talk to (especially first-year students or students that have transferred to Hamilton) were told at one point or another that the VT is where you go if you're trying to get lucky.

Before many students even get to the VT, they have an idea or expectation of what it is, either told to them explicitly by an older friend or implicitly by the culture of Hamilton. The truth, at least my own biased and most likely skewed truth, is that the VT is a cesspool. The environment of the VT is predatory, and people seem to forget basic social rules and expectations once they cross the door jam after the "security guard" gives their quasi-passable fake ID a one-over with a flashlight.

Men in the Village Tavern seem to think it appropriate to touch women without asking or often without any introduction. I understand that the VT is an incredibly crowded space (more on that later), but in absolutely no context is it appropriate to grab someone by their hips, breasts, genitals, or butt to move them out of your way. That is, by definition, sexual assault. I don't have a single female friend that has not, in at least one instance, been touched without their consent in the VT.

Staring someone down from across a crowded room, walking over to them, and striking up a conversation while standing inches away from their face without any kind of engagement or positive response from them isn't something that would be acceptable in any other context than the VT.

The language used in the Village Tavern, most commonly by men, is disgusting. Comments to the nature of: "I've got to find a hoe before the Jitney comes", or "I better get a nut tonight", and "Ugh, she's beat but I'd still smash" are misogynistic, directly contribute to the problems Hamilton has with sexual misconduct and assault, and, vitally, are widely accepted or at least tolerated. Often times people will excuse grossly inappropriate actions or comments by blaming alcohol or drugs, but if this pattern happens repeatedly then who is really to blame? Perhaps you shouldn't be drinking to the point where your libido completely rules you and your self-control go out the window.

Why does this happen? Why does no one step in? Hamilton students are, for the most part, some of the most conscientious, brave, and socially aware people that I know, yet when confronted with brazen and disgusting actions, the most common response is silence. People say things like: "Well it was the VT, what do you expect", or "Yeah he did that, but it could have been worse." This is unacceptable. I reject the notion that this is "just how it is." At the VT — and only at the VT — different rules seem to apply. I can say with confidence that sexual misconduct occurs at other social spaces on and off Hamilton's campus, but I maintain that nowhere at Hamilton is it as rampant and public as the Village Tavern.

Some people seem to think that just being in the VT on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday is an explicit declaration that they're looking for a sexual encounter. I can't tell you how many times I've had friends have to say to an overly-aggressive VT patron, "No I'm just here with my friends." This galling

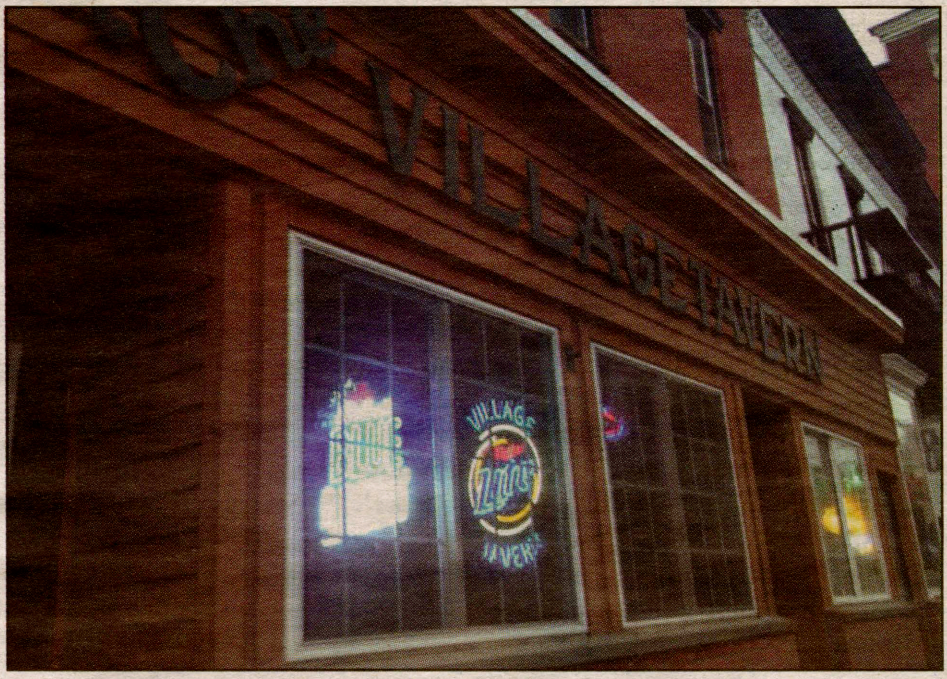

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE VILLAGE TAVERN
The exterior of the Village Tavern in Clinton, NY

assumption that people make is most clearly highlighted when students, myself included at one point, who are in long-distance relationships (or relationships in general) are told off for being in the VT. I'll say it once more for the people in the back: No, being at the VT is not the equivalent of an advertisement for a sexual experience.

The combination of a culture that supports and does not challenge predatory behavior, a tightly enclosed space, and impaired students is dangerous. It leads to sexual assault. We must, as a community, change the way that we interact with and around the Village Tavern.

Part of the problem is that there's no cap on patrons in the VT the way there is at a bar like Breakaway; the confined space and cramped standing room is possibly an exacerbating factor. I think that there should be a set limit of students allowed in at one time, but I don't know the first thing on how to get that into effect. The problems I've described exist at the Rok, at Breakaway, at all campus functions, and in suite parties. I maintain, however, that nowhere other than the VT are they so illuminated, tacitly encouraged, rewarded, and practiced.

At this point in my diatribe I think it important to note that not everyone behaves this way at the VT. Without question there are safe and healthy practices. I also must acknowledge I have not had first hand experience of the majority of behaviors and challenges that I've raised. Despite this, I believe the problem to be pervasive and worthy of addressing. It is especially discouraging that incoming students are told that that's how the VT works; these accounts encourage an attitude of futility and acceptance. I will not equivocate my opinion. The culture of the Village Tavern is a direct result of how the student body treats the space, and the problems that exist on the beer-soaked floors and between the grimy walls are ones of our own creation. It does not have to be this way.

The easiest (at least on paper, certainly not in practice) and most effective way for a change in the culture of the VT to come about is individual interventions. I'm going to borrow the TSA adage and encourage you, dear reader, to say something if you see something. Ignore the cliché, it really is that simple. Silence is a direct contribution to the predatory environment of the Village Tavern and must not be the norm. I implore you to speak out when — unfortunately, I can't say "if" here — you see your friends being grabbed against their will. Rush to their defense. Be the kind of friend that you would want to have. Don't accept someone making a crude comment or derogatory remark as flirting, don't go home with someone who put their hands on you without asking or even talking to you first.

Men: if you see one of your friends being inappropriate, encourage them to be better. Remind them that there are real consequences for their actions. Challenge them. I know that it's hard; I don't pretend to sit here and preach as if it is easy. I am guilty of allowing misconduct to occur in front of me and I chose to be silent because it's easier to be silent than it is to challenge a stranger or get involved in a situation with a teammate, classmate, or peer.

The overarching point that I'm trying to make here is that if your way of initiating a sexual encounter with someone isn't something that you'd do in Commons, while sober, or anywhere else on campus in daylight, then odds are it isn't something that you should be doing. I don't think that this is new information; as I mentioned before I think that the majority of Hamilton students are incredibly cognizant. I posit that the combination of substance abuse and repeated reinforcement of a specific kind of culture at the Village Tavern is incredibly problematic and an issue that we must address. This is not the onus of the administration; it is on us to change how we treat each other. It is on the students to hold their friends, teammates, and peers accountable. It is on me and it's on you, and I fervently believe that we can, and must, make this change.

Walking in public: does sexism still exist?

by Carolyn Gevinski '22
Opinion Contributor

In the 21st century, the word "Feminism" has evolved into an enmity — a trigger word for some, while for others, it is effectively worshipped. The claims of everyday sexism and the equal number of retorts have coiled themselves into a convoluted hairball of strange terms such as "misogyny," "bropropriating," "feminazi," "woke," "mansplain," and "manspread." Fortunately, these never-ending arguments can be quickly summarized into one seemingly unanswerable question: Does sexism still truly exist in the United States? Various responses to the query have spawned an increasingly divisive debate.

In order to satisfy my growing curiosities and find a valid answer to this question, I decided to construct an experiment. Although there are many severe forms of sexism to examine (i.e. the wage gap or sexual assault in the workplace), I chose to test a more lighthearted everyday form of discrimination: walking in public. Where better to do an experiment based on walking in public than a college campus? Bumping into people while rushing to class, not knowing whether you should wave at that person you vaguely know, juggling a hill card, phone, room key, water bottle, and backpack as you run to catch a door — all cringe worthy reminders of the daily bustle here on College Hill.

According to *Refinery29*, women walking in public are more likely to step aside for men than men are for women, leaving them at a disadvantage. Many women have taken their experience to the internet, claiming that they made a conscious effort to walk in the direction of men without moving aside. These women insist that their experiences consisted of countless collisions with relentlessly unmoving male bodies. However, as we all (hopefully) know, the internet is not always the most trustworthy source of information. In order to discover if there is truth behind these claims, I took part in a small investigation of my own. Unlike the alleged claims I had seen online, I wanted my experiment to exhibit scientific accuracy. In this sense, I needed a control group, something the women who had tested their hypothesis by merely walking straight into a gaggle of guys and counting "hits" did not use. In order to do this, I would need to test my ideas on both men and women.

My goal was to walk straight at 40 people (20 male, 20 female) without yielding. I would then record how many members of each gender were cordial enough to step aside, and how many I ran straight into.

In the culmination of my observations, the numbers did not favor the men. Four out of twenty men moved to the side for me to pass while sixteen did not budge, generating a collision. Out of the women, fourteen moved aside, and the other six did not. Although women have overcome endless social and political barriers that inhibit our progress, there is still this evident discrepancy between male and female actions. This can be attributed to the societal expectations and gender roles imposed upon us as women. In completing this experiment, I recognized my my own inherent urge to move aside for others for the first time, and was forced to fight it. I accredit these behaviors to the idea that society teaches women that we must follow certain rules and exhibit specific characteristics in order to become "ladies."

A clear example of this is the idea that women are created for the purpose of having children. Women are also taught to identify ourselves with the male figures in our lives. Even accomplished women are often recognized as primarily mothers, sisters, and daughters before being recognized for their work. These examples suggest that women are conditioned to comply with "ladylike" standards in order to be accepted in society. We are both figuratively and literally taught to step aside and let men do the work.

Although my study may seem trivial, I see it as a small insight that becomes magnified when considered among a plethora of everyday injustices. Women are not outraged to the point of organizing marches and protests because walking in public is a tiny bit more difficult for us. It is the collective discrimination from hundreds of examples, some more critical than others, that exasperate us. Perhaps women are irritated because a woman is considered a "slut" under the same terms that a man would be called a "stud." Our animosity could also be rooted in the fact that our own president has made statements such as, "You know, it doesn't really matter what [they] write as long as you've got a young and beautiful piece of ass." The list of grievances is endless.

While the issue of women walking with less ease in public may seem inconsequential compared to the other difficulties we face, it is a small step towards answering my original question. If ever asked, "Does sexism still truly exist in the United States?", I would answer with a confident, wholehearted "Yes."

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Did you guys know that, in the event of a fire, it's literally safer to stand perfectly still on the third floor of Root until the fire is extinguished than it is to descend the stairs? Hand.	I got pulled over in Clinton for texting and driving. Nyet, nyet. I was simply skipping the displeasing third movement of a Ravel trio. Didn't get a ticket, though. I charmed my way out of it. Foot.	I had a lovely lunch with my professor a day ago. I enjoyed myself. How was your day, are you doing well? I bet you are. The weather has been lovely. Mouth.

by Zachary Deming '20 and Ethan Dunn '20

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Is accepting all refugees the moral answer to a crisis?

by Joy Zhichun Zhang '22
Opinion Contributor

Policies towards refugees fleeing oppression is a critical issue. At its root is the question of whether or not it is acceptable to turn away those who face violence and persecution in their home countries. A New Yorker article published in January 2018 found that "hundreds of thousands of immigrants in the U.S. may face violence and murder in their home countries." Some American leaders have proposed relaxing immigration policies when it comes to refugees, but is such action really the answer to this problem?

German philosopher Immanuel Kant is known for his theory of the "categorical imperative", which, generally, says that there are certain universal maxims that all people should reason are acceptable rules to live by. Using this framework, I would argue that we do have a moral responsibility to extend some form of aid to refugees seeking to escape turmoil in their home countries. The question remains, though, how? I want to focus on what the US can do.

Open borders is not the solution to this issue, nor is it an effective one. Lifting existing barriers to immigration would jeopardize our democracy, hinder the development of the countries from which refugees are coming, and pose further challenges to America's working class. Instead of using immigration or asylum as the "emergency medicine" to all humanitarian issues, the government should address the problem at its root.

It is imperative for us to balance democracy and morality, as opposed to sacrificing one for the other. With the election of Donald Trump, a supporter of stricter policies towards potential immigrants and refugees, we have moved towards a more extreme side of the spectrum that ignores any moral obligation to help refugees.

Some argue that this is a symptom of "the tyranny of the majority", wherein the democratically-elected leader and his supporters pursue policies that help themselves over the needs of smaller groups. The policy supported by the majority is more likely to side with their own interests than those of the minority — in this case, refugees. Still, although the voice of the minority should not be neglected, the will of the majority is still important.

Our government should create policies that not only reduce the suffering of refugees but also comply with the will of the majority of its people. This would mean focusing on remedying the issues that are causing a refugee crisis in a given country. For example, America can try to foster a ceasefire agreement in war-torn neighborhoods where civilians live, help establish more high-quality schools and hospitals in these areas, and help prop up their economies.

Accepting all refugees for moral reasons would not account for the many issues it would create. The moral question of fairness is also more complex than it might initially seem. While it is true that no one can decide their birthplace and the circumstances attached to it, there are many other determinants of success that also depend purely on luck, such as intelligence, appearance, health, and family background, all of which sometimes play an even bigger role in a person's quality of life than their place of birth.

While it might satisfy some part of our national conscience to accept all refugees, it is hard to argue that their problems would be solved just by coming to America — outside of escaping the immediate threat of violence. By addressing the issues that are causing a refugee crisis, we can create a better outcome for all involved.

As much as we might hope for a world of peace and equality, accepting all refugees is not the means needed to achieve these goals. Instead, such a policy would only create more issues both domestically and internationally. In addressing the moral issues posed by this problem, countries should abandon a "stop-gap" approach and meet the crisis head on.

The future of residential life at Hamilton College

by Catherine MacFarland '22
Contributing Writer

According to *US News and World Report*, college students complain most often about their classes, residence halls, and dining hall food. Luckily, Hamilton is currently addressing two of these qualms (sorry foodies).

The College is in the process of implementing its new strategic plan. One of the three core initiatives of the plan is an enhanced residential experience at Hamilton. The College hopes to make comprehensive changes to both residential life and mental health in its efforts to "develop a model residential experience that provides students with extensive opportunities for leadership and engagement, and intellectual and personal growth."

In meeting this objective, the College hopes to eventually create developmentally-appropriate student housing — housing that increases independence throughout a student's Hamilton experience.

It might look something like this: during students' first year, they will continue to live in traditional residence halls, as these have proven to be the best way to build community initially. As students become upperclassmen, however, their living situations will mirror their maturity and help transition them into adulthood.

One option the College is considering is an integrated housing village where juniors and seniors would live among faculty and staff members. The students would live in new apartment-style housing while staff would live in townhouses. The community would include combined social spaces, dining halls, and daycare centers to encourage community engagement. Also, there is the possibility of adding life skills programming for students, like cooking classes or seminars on how to do taxes and lease apartments.

This model would seek to benefit both students and faculty. Students would be able to develop independence and reintegrate into campus after returning from off-campus studies. The College and its community would benefit from staff moving closer to campus, and it could even be used as a recruiting tool for new employees.

Ashley Place, Director of Residential Life, explains that the administration is "working on establishing what [this initiative] looks like and what steps are needed to get there," and that the strategic planning committee will be "inviting students to engage in the conversation throughout the process."

In addition, the College is looking into adding more living and learning communities like the Residential Engagement in Academic Life (REAL) program. Joey West '22, a first-year in the newly added Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Floor (WOLF), noted, "I love living on the WOLF floor and would highly encourage the College to create more special interest communities."

Hamilton is also looking to renovate the current first-year residence halls to include more common spaces. These spaces would be larger and meant to encourage a greater sense of community within a residence hall. These could also be used as event spaces for floor bonding activities as well.

Complimenting the new Health Center and, broadly, its focus on mental health issues on campus, the College is also looking into options to reduce stress and increase wellness for students through changes to their current academic calendar. One option

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Residence halls like Ferguson Hall, pictured above, could see changes to their basic functions in the coming years

currently under consideration is the addition of a "J-Term" or "Maymester" before or after second semester, similar to programs in place at NESCAC peer institutions like Williams and Middlebury Colleges.

Such a program would require students to take one 3-week class in a relaxed atmosphere on a more "niche" topic than would be offered during a regular semester. Students could also elect to use this time to participate in an internship or a brief career-related program outside of Hamilton.

Similarly, the planning committee is exploring a "no grades" or "optional grades" policy for first-year students' first semester to help them adjust to the expectations of coursework.

Of this proposal, Elise Lainer '22 says, "I would love to have no grades first semester so that I could get an idea of the rigor of Hamilton and where I stand, but not be penalized as I adjust to the workload."

The senior staff has begun the process of implementing the strategic plan. They have started working on new special interest housing and plans to renovate common spaces. The developmentally-appropriate student housing and academic calendar are still being reviewed but would be introduced in the coming years.

Capital punishment and resource scarcity: the work of Professor Keelah E.G. Williams

by Carter Loomis '20
Contributing Writer

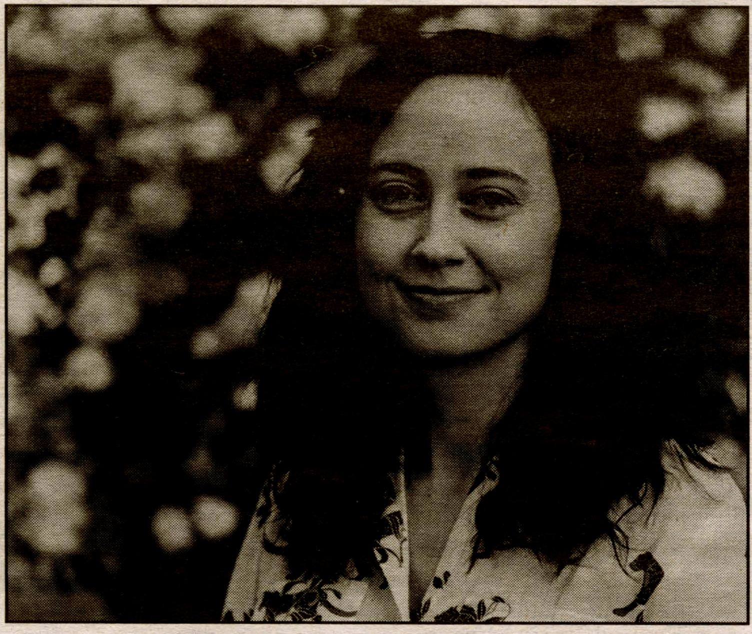

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Professor Keelah E.G. Williams

Keelah E.G. Williams, Assistant Professor of Psychology, originally hails from Australia but moved to Detroit, Michigan in the second grade. She attended Arizona State University for graduate school, where she attained both a Ph.D. in Philosophy and a Juris Doctor.

She has always been interested in the intersection of law and psychology. Over the summer, she published a paper in Evolution and Human Behavior entitled, "Capital and punishment: Resource scarcity increases endorsement of the death penalty." It discusses the correlation between resource availability in certain areas and how the populace of those areas feel about the death penalty. The article was the culmination of four different studies performed over the last six years.

In an interview, Williams noted how a lack of resource availability can influence various behaviors among affected populations, including reproductive timing and race-based judgments. When resources are scarce — a phenomenon that correlates with economic instability and insecurity — people tend to feel less confident in their future situation and choose to have children at younger ages. Another pattern Williams noted in her research is people's tendency to be less inclusive of others when resource scarcity occurs. For example, in a situation of resource scarcity, white people are more likely to label an ethnically ambiguous person as non-white. As resources become scarcer, Williams explains, people tend to be more exclusive so as to avoid having to share few resources among many people.

In the first study, Williams and her co-authors investigated the relationship between a nation's Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) and the legality of the death penalty. The IHDI differs from Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a similar measure, in that it takes into consideration how resources have been distributed throughout a country. Williams and her fellow researchers found a positive correlation between resource scarcity within a country and legal endorsement of capital punishment, though they did not investigate popular opinion regarding the death penalty. The second study took a similar approach and explored the relationship between GDP of a state and the legal status of capital punishment. Again, researchers found a positive correlation between resource scarcity and the legality of the death penalty.

These studies acted as proof of concept for the ideas behind the paper but, because they were not experimental in nature, could not support a causative link between the phenomena of resource scarcity and a legal death penalty. To test their hypotheses, Williams and her co-authors conducted a two further studies. In one, the researchers manipulated subjects' perception of resource scarcity. Half of the participants were given articles that gave a negative outlook on the stability of the economy, while the other half were given articles with a more positive outlook on the economy. This study supported their hypothesis that those who read the negative article were more likely to approve of the death penalty, while those that read the positive article disapproved.

In the final study, Williams and her team interrogated the possible driving forces behind the experiment's results. They concluded that in resource-rich situations, people are more willing to give offenders the chance to rehabilitate. When fewer resources are available, people are less willing to risk devoting resources to others' rehabilitation and are therefore more likely to support the death penalty.

Professor Williams is currently working with a Hamilton student on a new project that explores the role that contempt and anger play in people's endorsement of policies. Although the difference between the two is subtle, contempt is defined as the feeling that a given person has nothing more to offer you, while anger is defined as disappointment, but that reparations can be made after some punishment has been dealt.

Interested readers can find more information about the subject of this article in the upcoming episode of the podcast Discussions with DPIC, which includes an interview with Professor Williams. It will be available via iTunes or deathpenaltyinfo.org within the week.

Food Review: The Lotus Garden

by Betsy Ramirez '19
Contributing Writer

Lotus Garden? Lotus Garden. What first comes to mind is a beautiful paradise: bright pink flowers floating on the surface of a pond, and a thin layer of fog settling on top. While we may not find that idyllic oasis in central New York, there is a lovely restaurant named Lotus Garden just a 15- to 20-minute drive from the Hill. This weekend, I visited this locally owned, family-run restaurant located on 1011 King St, Utica, NY. Trust me, it is a close second to paradise.

Don't drive? Don't worry! The Jitney service to Utica operates every other Saturday from 1:30-5:30 PM. Check online for more details.

From the outside, the Lotus Garden looks like a quaint cottage, adorned with vibrant flowers and complete with tables for outdoor dining. As soon as I walked in, the hostess, Sam, greeted me with a friendly smile and walked me over to the cozy dining room. The space was dimly lit, decorated with a piano, and even had a portrait of the family on the wall. Sam guided us through the dinner menu and made some suggestions. There were many options, including sushi, Korean bulgogi, and Thai noodles. Even the pickiest of eaters will be able to find something exciting.

I started the meal with an order of Peking ravioli (or dumplings) and egg soda. I would honestly go back solely for those two items — they were absolutely delicious. The dumplings were filled with tender beef and wrapped with soft, fresh dough. The egg soda did not disappoint either. It was my first time tasting it. Sam, who was making them to order, insisted I try it. I'm glad I did, because it was exquisite. It tasted like a denser and more flavorful cream soda that was perfectly sweet.

For the main course, I was excited to try the traditional Cambodian dishes on the menu. I decided on the fish amok, which is a thick soup cooked with fish meat, vegetables, eggs, and coconut milk and served with white rice. The preparation of the soup in banana leaves is a culinary tradition in Cambodia. Needless to say, I fell in love at first spoonful. It was savory and fiery, and the combination of fresh fish and the spicy coconut flavor was unexpected and delicious. The soup packed a punch, but the white rice balanced the spice and helped the flavors meld together smoothly. It was a two-and-a-half chili pepper dish and I love spicy food, so I was in culinary heaven.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETSY RAMIREZ '19

The exterior of The Lotus Garden in Utica, NY

The food was magnificent and tasted like a lovingly-prepared, home-cooked meal. The downside is that the service was a bit slow. You can't rush art, though, and it was definitely worth the wait. The dinner menu is also on the expensive side, but the portions are quite large. They provided take out boxes, and I was able to have seconds at home! If you're on a budget or want a more affordable meal, Lotus's lunch menu offers deals on sushi and noodles.

Lotus Garden surpassed my expectations and gave me a much needed break from Commons' grilled chicken and vegetables. The space was welcoming, and the staff was very pleasant. I loved that it was family-owned and that you felt like you were eating a meal at home. The food is packed with flavor, and you will not leave hungry. I give this restaurant four and a half stars. Lotus Garden is a gem, and if you visit, you'll surely enjoy it!

RATING:

From Where I Sit: What I did with my summer

Hamilton's International Perspectives Column

by Aurora Cai '21
Contributing Writer

As an international student from Shanghai, China, this was my first summer going back home after a whole year of living in a foreign country that is almost 10,000 miles away. Therefore, the question that most of you may have been asked hundreds of times, "How was your summer?" is difficult for me to answer in just a few words.

I quote some of the pieces in my journal entry:

June 21st

Today is the last day of my internship. I work in an asset allocation company, helping analyze data and graphs. Getting up early, taking the subway during rush hour, and working for eight hours at the same spot... I miss college already. The limited social network and the high number of technology-based tasks make me doubt if this is actually the career path that I want to go on. Before I took this internship, I was contemplating whether I should follow a similar career path as my parents or step outside their comfort zone to work on the things that I am actually interested in: the humanities and social sciences. I am glad that I realized that the kind of work my parents are doing is definitely not suitable for me while I still had time to explore.

June 24th

I managed to climb to the top of the Great Wall! Dad told me that the last time we were here, I also climbed to the top, although I was on his back the whole time. I often went picnicking and hiking with my dad before I entered high school. As he became busier and busier, however, we seldom went outside together. I can't even remember the last time he went on a family trip with us — maybe 3 years ago? This summer, my Dad finally had the time to travel with us, even though it was only for two days. It has been 16 years since we last visited Beijing. We went to the same places we went to the last time — the Summer Palace, the Great Wall, and the Imperial Palace. Along the way, my parents kept telling me the stories about our last trip to Beijing. I could not remember any of them, so when I heard the story about how I fell asleep on my dad's back by the time he made it to the top of the Great Wall, I laughed really hard.

July 13th

I am on a plane returning to China from Korea, where I visited my best friend from Hamilton and met her family and her friends. I was really, really nervous about going to a place where I could not understand anything, yet we were screaming when we saw each other in the airport as if we had not seen each other in a century. We cooked Naengmyeon (a type of Korean noodle) and Sundubu (Korean tofu — ugh, it is so good) together and traveled around Korea for only one week. We relaxed on the beach and laughed at a woman whose slipper got whipped away by the waves. We went shopping and put sample makeup on each other's faces. I am going to miss my home in Korea.

July 24th

It has been such a unique experience of discussing veganism, sustainability, effective altruism, and other topics that I am passionate about. Having more knowledge about things like nutrition, moral ethnicity, and clean meat technology enables me to share my values with others in a better way.

In the United States, people are generally aware of veganism and there are many vegan options in the restaurants. After I came back to China, however, I found it really hard to stick to veganism because of the misconceptions people have about veganism and the limited vegan food options. Instead of giving up, I started to do more research on veganism. I attended a vegan conference that was held in Guangdong, China, and over 160 people gathered together to brainstorm activities to promote the vegan lifestyle, share our vegan journeys, and learn about the nutrition facts of the vegan diet. I ended up convincing my parents that a vegan diet can be very healthy and nutritional, and persuaded my family to eat less meat.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AURORA CAI '21

August 6th

Can't believe that this is my last night at home. I am gonna miss this cozy, warm, soft bed a lot. Like, a lot.

This is what I did this summer. This was a summer that I finally got back to my beloved home. This was a summer about my career plans, my personal values, my family, and my friends. This was a summer of reunions and separations.

'From Where I Sit' is a column dedicated to international students' voices.

A student of cinema at Hamilton College: studying Egyptian films

by **Ghada Emish '19**
Contributing Writer

When I tell my classmates that Cinema Studies is one of my concentrations, I usually receive a surprised facial expression that the Cinema Studies program even exists at Hamilton. Well, it is a concentration, and it has changed my life! Cinema and Media Studies is the name of the department, but students have the option to specialize in either cinema, media, or both. I have consciously chosen to focus on cinema.

The department has allowed me to grow through the opportunity to independently design my course of study. I mostly recognize the value of this education in my exploration of classical Egyptian cinema through research. However, classical Egyptian cinema is not a topic that one easily stumbles upon. There are few sources that focus on cinematography, and the artistic worth of the industry.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF PIPPA SCHAWRZKOPF '16

Egyptian singer and actress Laila Mourad

I suspected that I would specialize in film after taking "Intro to Russian Film" in the spring semester of my first year. For the first time, I was exposed to academic material that elaborated on the complexity of film for the socio-political implications embedded in its visual narrative. At this point, I realized that the language of film is powerful and wanted to learn more about it. So, I registered for "Intro. to History and Theory of Film" the following semester, with the only professor at Hamilton who specializes in film: Professor Scott MacDonald.

The introductory course is designed to expand our understanding of "what film can do," in MacDonald's words. I confess, I was frustrated with watching experimental films in the course. I was so accustomed to watching narrative films that I did not understand how to appreciate experimental films, but the class ended up teaching me how to do just that. The class is composed of two three-hour sessions per week, in which discussion follows film projections. The only assignment is to contemplate the films through writing.

It was an encouragement to take my time seeing these films and reflect on them. I realized that watching film is a process. It takes time to adapt one's eyes to seeing what a film does. This class introduced me to reading a film. In my mind, the class inspired appreciation and respect for the medium.

In February 2017, I declared a cinema — and media — studies concentration. While I have been fascinated with classical Egyptian cinema since childhood, as a student of cinema, I still knew nothing about the world in which these films were produced. I continued to watch classical Egyptian cinema at my leisure. With the knowledge I acquired from film classes, I read the films differently. I wanted to learn how these films were made, and what distinguished their visual authors. So, for the past two summers, I conducted research on the industry. What I learned in class about reading film was instrumental in my research journeys.

To take a variety of film classes and improve my French language skills, I spent my junior year in France. The Hamilton in France program offered me opportunities much greater than I imagined. Living in Paris, I took cinema classes at two French universities and did an academic internship at the European Independent Film Festival. I even—deliberately—chose to take a class on experimental cinema. It was a huge lecture class that exposed me to the artistic and intellectual roots of experimental film. I was one of a few foreign students in this course at a reputable, public French university. I appreciate the course not only for its academic gain, but for the experience I had being in that classroom.

This semester, The Spectator has generously allowed me to publish a writing series on selected topics in classical Egyptian cinema. The articles in the series will be accompanied by a visual supplement that interprets the written analysis. Pippa Schwarzkopf '16 has agreed to collaborate on the series by doing the illustrations. I first worked with Schwarzkopf on a similar project that was an assignment in the class "Visual Narratives: Images within Books."

The Onset of Classical Egyptian Cinema Through Musical Film

Research on this topic took place through an Emerson grant in the summer of 2017, with Professor Scott MacDonald as my advisor.

It was in the late 19th century that Egyptian people took to listening to talented singers who would perform in the comfort of their customers' homes, in the public cafes, or at the theatre. The rise of the musical film genre offered an additional way for Egyptians to enjoy listening to talented singers, but with a visual supplement. The musical film is the first genre in Egyptian cinema and the first type of cinema to achieve immense popularity in Egypt. One of the first Egyptian musical films is White Rose (1932), which featured Mohamed Abdel-Wahab, acclaimed musical composer and singer at the time. White Rose was the first Egyptian film to be externally distributed; it was mainly celebrated for the performances of the talented Abdel-Wahab.

The late 19th century in Egypt also witnessed a modernization wave led by the Khedive Ismail, the Egyptian ruler appointed by the Ottoman State. Cinema historian, Mahmoud Ali, mentions in his book, *The Dawn of Egyptian Cinema* that the first film projection in Egypt, on November 5th, 1896 in Alexandria, happened three months before Egypt's first tramway was installed in Cairo. The most popular Egyptian musical films were influenced by theatre, which were particularly popular in the 1920s.

Theatre flourished after the arrival of director George Al-Abyad from Lebanon, who established a successful theatre troupe, where several film actors started their careers. One of these actors is Youssef Wahbi, who directed musical and non-musical films with a heavy theatrical influence. In making his film, *Love and Revenge* (1944), he shot the musical scenes in a style that corresponded to more a musical performance given on a theatre stage than it did to a film sequence. An example is the musical performance, "Merry Nights in Vienna," which, besides being shot in an actual theatre, opens with the onset of a dance performance taking place on stage.

In capturing the musical sequence, the camera does not move; rather, it catches shots of the main singer, the dancing partners surrounding her and the view of the stage from an audience perspective. With the lack of any plot development throughout this musical performance, it becomes completely irrelevant to the film. It is as if the viewers only paid for a film ticket, but, in fact, had the chance to see both a musical performance "at the theatre" and a film!

Togo Mizrahi is the one directors who, mostly, integrated musical sequences as an essential part of the plot development. Mizrahi did not work long enough to develop his style; his career only included four musical films between 1939 and 1944, with singer Laila Mourad as the lead actress.

Despite the promise of Mizrahi's films, they did not achieve as much popularity as the those by director and producer Anwar Wagdy. Active in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Wagdy was determined on making films, also starring Mourad, with glamorous musical sequences, but they were not always relevant to the plot. Wagdy's films were critically praised for non-musical sequences with complex montage. But it was the editing skills of, later-to-be acclaimed director, Kamal Al-Sheikh, that were behind the composition of these sequences. With the prioritization of including musical sequences over the cohesion of plot development, the musical film genre never reached its full cinematographic potential.

During the age of the musical film genre, very few directors created non-musical films, which appealed more to film critics than to the public. An example is the neo-realist film Determination (1939) by Kamal Selim, which demonstrated a promising talent in using the camera to reflect on the characters. However, Selim did not live long enough to develop his style.

The early 1950s witnessed the appearance of directors who wanted to escape the light quality of the musical film formula. Examples are Al-Sheikh, Henry Barakat, and Youssef Chahine. Slowly, such directors produced films in other genres, with a lessening inclusion of musical sequences, and were critically praised for this endeavor.

While the musical film genre is a cultural asset for its musical performances, it provided a practice tool for some directors to hone their skills and develop their own stylistic trademarks. Later, these directors had full authorship of their films and the market slowly became more flexible to accommodate non-musical genres that included no music except in the soundtrack. These directors' more promising films reflected on significant political themes, were selected at international film festivals and received significant critical acclaim.

A newcomer's guide to life off the Hill

by Natasha Lane '21
Staff Writer

As the fall semester starts and the weather cools off, both new and returning Hamilton students begin to wonder whether there is any worthwhile entertainment off the Hill. Clinton and the surrounding area have a lot to offer for someone who is looking for an artsy Sunday getaway or a quick mid-day break from classes.

While the Clinton Cider Mill is one popular off-campus staple, there are other apple-related places and events to check out this fall. A favorite amongst Hamiltonians is North Star Orchard, a 10-minute drive from campus in Westmoreland, NY. The Cider Mill and the Orchard both have a delicious bakery and produce section, but the appeal of North Star is its ongoing "U-Pick" apple and pumpkin event from Sept. 16 through Sept. 29 and the first three weekends in October. The Clinton Farmer's Market is another well-known weekend activity, and it will be held every Thursday from 10 AM-4 PM until Oct. 4, as well as on an extended date on Sept. 20 from 10 AM-6 PM.

The Market is known for showcasing of art, music, and, of course, food. It is a great place to listen to local bands on the Village Green and buy fresh produce, as well as art, clothing, home accessories, and hot food. Each stand houses a different independent business that usually sells handmade or one-of-a-kind objects. With over 70 different independent businesses represented every Thursday, you may be there for a while. Drop by the Market, then head on over to Utica Coffee for something to drink or Sundaes in Clinton for some ice cream to end the day on a sweet note.

Looking for an artistic getaway that's a little more remote? The Berry Hill Book Shop for old, used, and rare books is located 6.5 miles south of campus. This old barn-turned-bookstore is a work of art in itself, and it has three floors and over 80,000 new and old books to peruse during your time there. It is easy to happen across rare and collectable books, so make sure to be on the lookout. Open from 10 AM-5 PM, Tuesday through Sunday (but closed for the month of January), this bookshop is a great place for anyone looking to expand their literary knowledge or for those trying to take a nice Instagram photo. The Berry Hill Book Shop is home to shelves upon shelves of books to dig through, creating winding passages with a multitude of hidden nooks and crannies to explore.

We have all been to Utica Coffee in Clinton, but now it's time to try the original branch on Genesee Street. Utica Coffee Roasting Co., located at 92 Genesee Street, is where the founders of the roasting company began to build their business, and where all their coffee is roasted and shipped to other branches. It is not only a popular café, but also a functional concert venue, so make sure to stop by whenever they have a new performer take the stage. This store location is a great place to finish some homework, catch up with friends, or listen to some new music.

Last, but certainly not least, Bite Bake Shop located at 53 Franklin Square is well known to both Hamilton students and Utica natives as a great casual restaurant with a friendly environment and aesthetic décor. Stop by for a quick coffee and cake to-go, or stay a little longer for lunch, or —even better—brunch. Bite specializes in comfort food, and is the perfect place to go as the weather starts to cool off and you are looking for something to do with your Saturday afternoon.

Whether you're using the jitney, a Zipcar, or your own vehicle, these locations are great for students looking for something fun to do off the Hill, and trying to learn more about Hamilton's surrounding area.

Illyria in Hamilton: reviewing Bare Naked Theatre's *Twelfth Night*

by Katherine Kim '22
A&E Contributor

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night stands out as one of the Bard's most beloved comedies, mostly because of the utter disorder the play brings to its characters. On Aug. 31 and Sept.1, the Bare Naked Theatre presented its own interpretation of the show at the Kennedy Center for Theatre and the Studio Arts (KTSA) Amphitheatre and delivered the same delightful mayhem to Hamilton's students.

To those unfamiliar with Twelfth Night, the story focuses on the wily Viola, disguised as pageboy Cesario, separated from her twin brother Sebastian. The kicker comes when Viola falls in love with her master, who falls in love with someone else; from there, chaos ensues.

By performing outdoors, the production gained a factor that integrated the audience into the play to a new level. Since Twelfth Night exists in Illyria, a fictional place off the coast of the Adriatic Sea, the sloping grounds and stream near the Amphitheatre gave the actors a perfect setting for performing the play. In addition, having modern day civilization stand in as a backdrop for the centuries-old play offered a more sentimental air than a more timeless setting. It truly showed how the Bard's work survived and resonated with audiences to the point where a production of Twelfth Night could make it to the modern day.

This particular version of Twelfth Night retained much of Shakespeare's language and, unlike some other productions, did not shy away from the play's themes of various gender identities and sexual attractions. Viola's true gender identity confused more than shocked the actors in the production, and she does not reveal herself by wearing a dress or showing off long hair. She stands before Duke Orsino in pageboy clothes, short cropped hair, and knees showing, the picture of androgynous self-confidence. The portrayal of Orsino was a touching performance, showing a man still hopelessly in love with Viola despite her massive deception. When a bespectacled and melodramatic Malvolio insulted Olivia, the character of Sebastian abruptly stepped in between them, almost as if readying herself to attack Malvolio for slandering Olivia. At the very end of the play, while Duke Orsino and Viola declared their love for each other, the female Sebastian bridal carried Olivia out to applause.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELINE JUSTINIANO '21

From left: Austin Ford '19, Danielle Hirsch '21, Emily Aviles '19, and Lily Delle-Levine '21 perform in *Twelfth Night*

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELINE JUSTINIANO '21

The audience gathers on the lawn of the KTSA Amphitheatre

The performances of every character received rancorous laughter from the audience. The actors took care not to overlook the comic reliefs from scene-to-scene, especially in the confusion of Malvolio thinking Olivia fell in love with him. The use of modern music between interludes garnered many surprised, yet delighted, remarks.

Since the actors performed outside, some audience members noted the problem with catching some of the play's lines and discerning between the characters. However, even without these elements, one could see through the body language of the performers that the narrative possessed comic elements that resulted in a wild and wonderful conclusion. Once the play ended, many audience members talked about how surprised they were to find Twelfth Night such a hilarious story, despite Shakespeare writing it centuries ago. Thus, Bare Naked Theatre pulled off the difficult tasks of maintaining a faithful production of Twelfth Night and continuing Shakespeare's legacy for others to learn more about the Bard's work.

Previewing the Wellin Museum's new exhibit: Jeffrey Gibson's *This Is The Day*

by Karina Bayrakdarian '21
A&E Contributor

This Saturday, Sept. 8, the Wellin Museum of Art will present *Jeffrey Gibson: This Is The Day*. The exhibit will debut new works by Gibson that include a film commissioned by the Wellin, a group of five elaborately adorned helmets, and a series of large-scale sculptural garments, all of which will hang from tipi poles attached to the gallery ceiling. Gibson showcases a wide range of artistic mediums and draws on a variety of influences to comment on race, sexuality, religion, and gender.

Gibson is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and is half Cherokee. He has travelled around the world for much of his adult life and grew up in major cities across the United States, Germany, Korea, and England. This unique combination of backgrounds plays an important role in Gibson's work, which largely focuses on themes of identity, cultural perception, and his own personal history.

This Is The Day combines pop and queer culture along with historical and contemporary references to his Native American heritage, including the 19th century Ghost Dance and the effects of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Through painting, sculpture, embroidery, beaded works, stained glass, and video, the works in the exhibit explore his continued interest in the act of self-adornment as a historical and contemporary occurrence.

Gibson is also a filmmaker. His new film, *I Was Here* (2018), centers around Macy, a transgender woman and member of the Choctaw Nation. The film was shot at the Choctaw Reservation in central Mississippi where Gibson's family originates. This location plays an important role in the film. By intercutting scenes of the mystical, natural landscape of the Choctaw reservation with Macy's daily life, Gibson's film explores the private and personal acts of self-transformation. According to Gibson; "Making new work for *This Is The Day* gave me the opportunity to explore new content, materials, and formats that have pushed my practice further. The garments and the commissioned video deal with contemporary issues of identity and establish a dialogue that is inclusive and about how the representation of one's subjective narrative is complex, valid, and never didactic.""The garments" refer to the traditional shirts associated with the Ghost Dance, a movement that originated with the Paiute people around 1870 and intensified when a Paiute shaman, Wovoka, had a vision in 1889 prophesying the peaceful end of the Westward Expansion and the return of land to Native American people.

Wovoka believed that proper practice of the dance would reunite the living with the spirits of the dead, would bring the spirits of the dead to fight on their behalf, and would bring peace, prosperity, and unity to Native American peoples throughout the region. "Ghost shirts" were worn during the dance and were thought to guard against bullets through spiritual power. Gibson puts his own twist on this concept by exaggerating the size of his garments and sewing together a combination of objects: vintage quilts, beaded "whimsies," metallic jingles, amulets, charms, beads, and long ribbons of fringe.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROME SENTINEL

Jeffrey Gibson's *This is the Day* exhibit displays traditional Native American garments hung from tipi poles

The five helmets that will be on view for the first time at the Wellin explore different themes found in Gibson's artwork: love, play, peace, death, and the deep sea. The helmets are adorned with crystals, charms, beads, shells, gun replicas, doll parts, and other collected and handmade objects. The helmets themselves are also oversized, heavy, and impractical to wear, weighing between 35 and 55 pounds each. Together, the garments and the helmets point to human layers of identity, while their impracticality highlights the often-weighty connotations of cultural responsibilities.

Tracy L. Adler, director of the Wellin Museum, explains: "Since the museum was founded, it has been strongly committed to providing artists with the creative space and resources to develop new projects. [Gibson] is an artist whom I have known and admired for many years. The themes that he explores in his practice are more relevant now than ever, when conflicting narratives about identity and how we define ourselves dominate mainstream discussion. We are excited to introduce this significant body of work to both the Hamilton community and broader audiences."

Getting to know the newest members of Hamilton's a cappella community

by Olivia Wenzel '21
A&E Contributor

Last weekend, Hamilton's five a cappella groups held auditions to bring in new members. Auditions were held on Sept. 1 and 2. Auditioners displayed their musical skills through scales and pitch matching, and then showed their more creative side by performing a song of their choice. Duelly Noted's new members, Max Hanrahan '22, chose to sing "Halloween" from the musical *Rent*, saying that the song "Delivers a lot of emotional intensity in a short time. It also fits neatly within my vocal range." Libby Militello '22, a new member of Tumbling After, sang "My Cherie Amour" by Stevie Wonder, who she says is "one of [my] favorite artists right now."

Following auditions, each group held callbacks, during which returning a cappella members were able to more closely evaluate each singer and identify how she or he could add to the group.

In contrast to the nature of auditions and callbacks, the process of accepting new members is significantly more lighthearted and exciting; groups walk around campus in the middle of the night, singing to their new members (and usually waking them up in the process).

Tumbling After accepted 5 new members: Militello, Kaela Dunne '22, Rachel Lee '22, Amalia Tobias '21, and Claire McCaslin '21. Special K has 3 new members: Caly Liss '22, Carina Krussel '22, and Aimee Booth '22. The Hamiltones' new members are Ally Millar '22, Nina Merz '22, Lydia McGinn '22, and Zach Jones '22. Duelly Noted accepted Hanrahan and Kaylee Davis '22. The Buffers accepted 5 new members: Jonathan Shakespeare '22, Matty Jackmauh '22, Aaron Simons '22, Andrew Little '22, and Jack Grossi '22.

The Spectator had the chance to sit down with some of the new members of each a cappella group and learn about their experience with Hamilton a cappella so far.

For many, a cappella is a new experience, but a part of college life that they wanted to become involved in. Davis, one of Duelly Noted's new members, shares that he has "always loved to sing and I had heard some of the group's music before I came to campus and loved the sound and energy." Tumbling After's new member Tobias says, "I love to sing and loved the idea of being part of a group where everyone also loves to do that."

For other new members, a cappella was an important part of their high school experience and something that they wanted to carry over with them college. Liss, a new member of Special K, says, "I was in an all-female a cappella group for four years in high school. It was such an enriching experience that I knew I wanted to continue." Millar, one of the Hamiltones' new members, was also part of an a cappella group in high school, but notes, "The Hamiltones are like no other group I've seen or been a part of. It's so nice to be part of an instant family that has so much fun together."

The new members are looking forward to their experiences participating in Hamilton acapella. Grossi, a new member of the Buffers says, "My dream song to sing [with the Buffers] would probably be 'Woods' by Bon Iver." New Tumbling After member McCaslin is excited for a cappella to be "a fun way to stay involved in music and make friends who love singing like I do."

With so many new and enthusiastic singers, all five groups are looking forward to a year full of good music and performances for all Hamilton students to enjoy.

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The Law Offices of
Daniel N. Cafruny, Esq.
Attorney at Law

34 Oxford Road
New Hartford, NY 13413
cafrunylaw@gmail.com

Tel 315-765-0610
Fax 315-765-0710
Toll Free 844-847-6083

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When will your reflection show...

... your experience at Hamilton?

We're now looking for seniors willing to write about their reflections; email us at featspec@hamilton.edu.

Jealous you weren't picked to be the Bachelorette or Bachelor of the week? Nominate yourself or others by emailing featspec@hamilton.edu

Upcoming Home Games: Week of Sept. 6

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Women's cross country has their first home meet this Sat., Sept. 8 at 11:00 AM on Love Field Track.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Men's soccer (1-0) will play on Tues., Sept. 11 at 5:00 PM against Bates College (0-0) on Love Field.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL P. DOHERTY

Men's cross country also has their first home meet this Sat., Sept. 8 at 11:30 AM on Love Field Track. Pictured: Lucas Wright '21

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL P. DOHERTY

Field hockey (0-0) will play on Tues., Sept. 11 at 5:30 PM against Skidmore College (1-1) on Goodfriend Field.

Hamilton falls behind in athlete diversity

*from **Diversity**, page 16*

were extremely limited in their recruiting; it was difficult for coaches to go far geographically to find student athletes, much less outside of New York State. Likewise, students could only speak with coaches while on campus, which placed an unfair economic burden upon underprivileged students who wished to pursue varsity athletics at Hamilton. Other regulations made recruiting difficult, such as the rules that coaches could neither talk to students outside of the summer, nor within their school during school hours.

In 2016, the athletic directors in the NESCAC presented a series of complaints, including those mentioned in this article, to the NESCAC presidents, urging them to consider the demographic ramifications of these restrictive measures. Students who would not otherwise know about Hamilton, many of whom are people of color, had no way to know whether their athletic abilities qualified them to be at Hamilton. Coaches also had no way to make these students aware of Hamilton. As a result, some of these restrictions were relaxed; coaches can now talk to students during times other than summer, and the budget cap on recruiting has been increased.

Schools immediately took advantage. Bowdoin College's recruiting budget increased 162 percent between the 2015-2016 season and the 2016-2017 season according to The Bowdoin Orient. With that being said, although the NESCAC has made changes that will help coaches appeal to a wider range of high school student-athletes, these rules are still not as relaxed as other conferences within the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Division III.

While Hind said that these changes are essential in beginning to make the athletics program more inclusive and diverse, he also noted the cultural nature of some sports. Citing a sport like hockey, which is more popular among rich, white demographics–both in participation and viewership, according to The Atlantic–he acknowledged that some sports are already fairly representative of the amount of students playing them on a national scale. Out of 515 ice hockey players of all genders in the NESCAC, only 37 were people of color, a paltry rate of just 7 percent, according to the NCAA. Interestingly, this rate is nearly identical to the rate of people of color playing on the national level in the National Hockey League.

For other sports, such as football, the NESCAC reflects no such reality. Nearly 70 percent of NFL players are people of color, according to ESPN, and yet about half of that percentage plays Division III football (NCAA). This, Hind says, is where diversity in athletics is failing. "The best success we can have is when we're representative of the rest of the college," he says. "I think we run into problems as a school and a program if we become misrepresentative."

Likewise, economic diversity is essential in fostering an open minded athletic and collegiate community. The disadvantages that low-income students face in pursuing athletic interests starts young; a child from a family that makes above $100,000 annually is three times more likely to play sports than a child from a family that makes below $25,000 annually (The Atlantic). Children who play in travel sports leagues can expect their families to pay an average of $2,266 on sports participation annually, an average which encompasses all sports (University of Florida's Sport Policy Research Collaboration, 2014). Equipment costs can keep children off of the field, and so college athletic departments simply see fewer low-income applicants, particularly for expensive sports such as lacrosse and ice hockey.

For underserved children who manage to pursue and afford sports until the collegiate level, barriers continue. Hind notes that spring and winter training trips and unexpected costs such as broken or worn cleats can pose a significant barrier for some students from low-income backgrounds. In those cases, he says, the athletic department works with the student to determine sources of funding. In rare occasions, the funding comes from the department itself. The most important thing, Hind stresses, is that students should not have to stop playing sports once at Hamilton just because they cannot afford participation. That, he says, is not inclusion.

Making Hamilton an attractive and inclusive place for all, regardless of socioeconomic status or race, is clearly an important goal. It is equally important to ensure that underrepresented groups on campus feel welcomed and integral to the community once they commit to Hamilton. The Dean of Students office issued a survey at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year that found that many people of color, including student-athletes, did not feel connected to the Hamilton community as a whole. Merrill, the assistant athletic director, feels as though the athletic department can do a better job at making students feel part of the larger community even within athletics, especially given that a third of all students are varsity athletes, a community in itself. She has worked with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) to create a dialogue with student-athletes of color. Merrill hopes that these conversations will continue. Hind also said that he feels as though diversity is important not only for creating team cohesiveness and diversity of thought, but also because it provides learning opportunities for players. In his opinion, everyone benefits from being on a team with a variety of outlooks, opinions and backgrounds.

Both Hind and Merrill emphasize their open door policy. They are considering programming for all incoming athletes which would encourage a conversation about diversity within teams, and they are working with the office of the Dean for Diversity and Inclusion to determine how and what to impart to coaches and players about diversity. Efforts both within the college and the NESCAC as a whole have provided an encouraging start to addressing the lack of diversity in athletics. As Hind puts it, his ultimate goal is to have a robust and representative student-athlete body, and he believes that the department is on its way to this goal. However, he says, "we need to do better."

Women's and men's golf teams take first

PHOTO COURTESY OF YANNIS MAKRIDIS '22

Men's golf player Mikey Gillis '22 follows through on his swing during the Hamilton Invitational.

on Sunday, Sept. 1. Tied with SUNY Oswego in the eight-team tournament on Saturday, the Continentals finished with the lowest final score of 596.

The Hamilton men's team of eight achieved the first-place title and was followed by SUNY Oswego at 605. Another Contitental team of five finished in third overall at 619.

Matneja was an individual medalist at the tournament. The invitational was Matneja's first colliegate competition and he also successfully broke par at the tournament.

Other highlights included Sam Vogel '22, who tied for second place at 144 and led the Continentals team of five. Vogel also broke par at the tournament alongside Matneja.

The men's and women's golf teams will be playing at St. Lawrence University this weekend. Both teams play Saturday, Sept. 8 at 1:00 PM. and Sunday, Sept. 9 at 8:00 AM.

Men's tennis looks to continue success

by Ben Westcott '22
Sports Contributor

In the final match of last year's spring season, the men's tennis team earned its first NESCAC victory since 2013 with a 7-2 win over Connecticut College. This year, the team is poised to build on that success. Matthew Brisotti, who will enter his first full season as the coach of the Continental's men's and women's teams after being hired last Dec., is optimistic about the program's future. "I think the program is on the rise and the focus is on getting everyone better," Brisotti said.

The men's team graduated only one senior while welcoming six new first-years. The result is that the team will roster 17 players this fall, an unusually high number for a college tennis team. The squad is focused on taking advantage of their strength in numbers. "We'll have more guys on the sidelines than on the court," said Matt May '21. "Let's make sure people know we're here. Eight guys yelling on the sidelines can definitely change momentum."

Senior captain Matthew Haas '19 has some very tangible goals for his final season on the Hill. He says: "I'm hoping the team will be able to qualify for the NESCAC tournament, obtain a 0.500 win percentage and get a regional ranking." In order to do that, the team will look to benefit from the help of new assistant coach Hannah Fleckenstein, who brings her knowledge and expertise from nearby Colgate University, where she coached and played for the Division I Raiders.

Men's and women's tennis will play their first tournament of the season during the St. Lawrence Fall Classic in Canton, N.Y. on Sat. Sept. 8 and Sun. Sept. 9, time to be decided.

> ***Let's make sure people know we're here. [More players] yelling on the sidelines can definitely change momentum" –Matthew May '21***

Intramural sports on the rise again

by Matthew Cappelletti '21
Sports Contributor

Intramural (IM) sports have always been a great way to de-stress after a long day of classes or an afternoon in the Burke Library working on problem sets and lab reports. However, in recent years this outlet has become nearly obsolete for students at Hamilton College. Why? Students might say it is due to an increased workload or their need for an extra hour of sleep on a Wednesday night. Another possibility is the fact that over half of the student body participates in either varsity athletics or club sports. Whatever the case may be, it is undeniable that intramural sports have lost their shine in recent years. They are, though, hoping to make a rebound this fall.

Hamilton competes with other NESCAC schools at the highest level of academics, extracurriculars, and athletics, but now the Continentals' intramural program is also on track for a major comeback. This year, the squad of IM Sports Commissioners has decided, alongside Director of Campus Wellness Dave Thompson, that they are going to make some changes to the program.

These changes include better methods of communication from the committee to team captains in order to ensure that the games are played, as well as adaptability with teams that are unable to make a game or that have to reschedule. In the past, the committee has struggled with teams forfeiting last minute, but this year the committee is choosing to hold teams accountable for missed regular season games. This year, IM sports has chosen to move contests to more convenient times during the week. This will be done to limit conflicts with work, office hours, and other commitments. Most of the game times will be on the weekends (Sunday afternoons) and early in the week before academic commitments begin to pile up.

Additionally, last Friday was the Hamilton College Club Fair, which nearly every on-campus club attended in order to promote their clubs and inform students about their meeting times and content. This year, the IM Sports Committee attended the fair and reported that there was more interest than ever before. Furthermore, there was an interest meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 7:00 PM in the Taylor Science Center Auditorium for IM team captains to register and for free agents to join a team. This fall, the intramural sports offered include soccer, two-hand touch football, basketball, and volleyball.

One of the great things about IM Sports is that they not only give students the chance to be active, but also provide a certain level of competition that is hopefully balanced reasonably well with schoolwork. This year, IM athletes are confident that IM sports will run more smoothly than they ever have. Of course, the chase for the coveted IM Sports Championship t-shirts will act as an additional incentive. The first football and soccer games will be played this Sunday, Sept. 9.

Oftentimes, varsity sports teams have multiple players participate in an intramural sport that is not their own. However, there can only be one varsity athlete from the actual varsity team of the sport an athlete is playing in order to prevent an unfair contest. Although the level of competition is expected to rise, there was an incredible turnout of non-varsity athletes interested at the Club Fair, and more are certainly encouraged to participate.

Intramural sports have undoubtedly been a behind-the-scenes activity on campus in recent years. However, they are seeking interest and competition in big ways this fall. As IM Sports Commissioner Ellie Riehle '20 says, "It's low-key pressure, but high-key fun."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Intramural and club sports, such as men's rugby, are an important part of many students' experiences.

SPECTATOR SPORTS
September 6, 2018

Hamilton, NESCAC peers lag behind in diversity in Division III athletics

by Grace Myers '19
Sports Editor

Diversity, in all its forms, has been an essential goal of the College in recent years, and will be an important part of its future. Schools across the country are realizing that communities in higher education fail to reflect the nation's demographics, and that predominantly white institutions (PWIs) can be intimidating for students of color. Achieving greater economic diversity is another goal of many schools, as a student's socioeconomic background can be a hurdle for many students when evaluating if and where they go to college. And while women attend college in greater proportions than men do, they still are not close to achieving equality in leadership positions in collegiate athletics or higher education. A college or university with students from similar economic and demographic backgrounds runs the risk of reducing the breadth of experiences students can share and thus the amount of unique perspectives available to the community.

Making diversity a priority in shaping a college's class is not a new concept, and it is one that Hamilton's Office of Admissions has taken seriously. The results are encouraging—the Class of 2022 is the most diverse in Hamilton's history—but the class is still not fully representative of the diversity of undergraduate students in this country. However, a large part of the college experience revolves around an area that lags even further behind in diversity efforts: athletics. Hamilton's varsity athletics program is less diverse than the overall student body by a significant margin, and so this leads to the important question: what is causing this lack of diversity at Hamilton? Further, what is being done to change these disappointing demographics?

27 percent of students in the Class of 2022 identify as people of color. This is below the nationwide statistic of 44 percent of college students who identify as people of color (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). Athletics are even less diverse at Hamilton and other New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) schools as a group. NESCAC schools compared to national averages are overwhelmingly white and wealthy. This is reflected in athletics; roughly 33 percent of NESCAC football players are people of color, while the number is 37 percent for players across all Division III football programs (NCAA). This is just one example; nearly every sport in the NESCAC is less diverse compared to Division III athletics as a whole.

A cause of this problem, or perhaps a symptom of it, is the lack of diversity in coaching staffs and administrators. At Hamilton, only one head coach—women's basketball coach Mahogany Green—out of 32 varsity teams is a person of color. Men's and women's golf coach Lauren Cupp is the first female in the College's history to head the coaching staff of a men's sport. These statistics are on par with the NESCAC as a whole in terms of coaching staff diversity, and does not reflect the diverse demographics of available coaches across Division III.

Strides, however, are being made in addressing this lack of diversity. Athletic Director Jon Hind '80 has introduced concrete measures to make coaching more accessible for women, such as providing allowances for new mothers to take their children with them while on away trips. Additionally, it is worth noting that the athletic administration is more diverse than the department's coaching staff, including administrators in top roles—Assistant Athletic Director Miriam Merrill is a person of color, and Hind originally came to Hamilton as a student through an economic opportunity program.

"[Diversity] is important to me," said Hind. "To know history and context is important in knowing where someone comes from. When I came to Hamilton in 1976, I was part of the opportunity program. I came from an inner city school and [the opportunity program meetings] are where I met my classmate Phyllis [Breland, current Director of Opportunity Programs at Hamilton]. I am very tuned in to being around diverse populations. I have learned the value of diversity in athletics and academics through my growing experiences. That's part of why I take this so seriously." Hind and Merrill have put into place a plan to increase diversity in athletics and to determine why Hamilton has fallen short in the past in finding intelligent, capable student-athletes and coaches from diverse backgrounds.

Understanding where Hamilton can improve in its recruitment processes begins with an understanding of the NESCAC recruitment and its limitations. As a member school, Hamilton is bound by the rules set by the conference. The NESCAC is relatively unique in that it has a presidentially-driven structure, and so all rules must be agreed upon by the member school presidents. Prior rules heavily restricted recruitment budgets. For example, in 2006, the budget cap was $200 per team. This cap, though gradually raised until 2016, meant that schools

see *Diversity* page 14

Women's and men's golf win invitational title

by Melanie Snyder '20
Sports Editor

The women's golf team achieved victory this weekend at the two-day 2018 Hamilton Invitational at Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford. The four-person Hamilton team finished the tournament with a total score of 679 — 338 on Saturday followed by 341 on Sunday. This is the second year in a row that the Continentals won the title at their invitational.

The runner-up in the eight-team tournament was SUNY Cortland with a 694 total. SUNY Cortland was then trailed by Ithaca College, which scored a 712 total.

Libbie Warner '19 finished with a 36-hole total of 163, putting her in third place.

Emily Moy '22 and Winda Wanikpun '20 tied for fourth place at 166. Moy played in her first collegiate level tournament this weekend at the invitational. On Sunday, Moy met Warner's 7-over par 80.

Wanikpun played as an individual on Saturday and Sunday, carded at 83 on both days. Wanikpun was the individual medalist at last year's invitational. "This weekend was great for the women; we all shot pretty low even though we didn't play our best," said Wanikpun. "I'm really excited to see how we perform this season. I think this is the best team we've had during my three years here playing golf for Hamilton."

Celia Lau '21 and Sophia Archos '21 landed in tenth and seventh place respectively. Archos was successful in achieving her own personal record of 80 on Saturday and finished at 173.

Meanwhile, Lau finished at 177 after two rounds of 89 and 88. Both players helped to give the Continentals five players in total in the top ten.

Warner emphasized the importance of the weekend's victory, stating, "This past weekend's home tournament was exciting for women's golf as it was a peak of our team potential. We have three new [first-years] on our team, adding talent and excitement to our roster.

"To start the season on such a strong note with a win is a great forecast into the season. With continued practice, the opportunity to gain more confidence and learning how to play each new course, our team has a lot of potential that should hopefully show low scores and more wins."

Warner also mentioned the progress for the team's future with increased practice time, saying, "Golf is a game where some shots are inevitably left on the course whether a 6 foot birdie putt missed or an errant tee shot that you normally hit down the center.

"With this in mind, I believe the women's team will see lower scores going further as our practices help reduce those missed opportunities in the tournament setting, as tournament setting is unique."

PHOTO BY CAMILLE SIRIANNI '22

Women's golf player Winda Wanikpun '20 tied for fourth place during the tournament this past weekend

This Saturday and Sunday, the women's golf team will play at the St. Lawrence University invitational, a course that they have historically done well on and are looking forward to returning to.

According to Warner, this is an exciting time for the Hamilton women's golf in part because of the new Bob Simon Practice Facility, dedicated returners, driven first-years, and optimism for the future of the team starting this weekend at the St. Lawrence Invitational.

For the men's team, individual medalist Milan Matneja '22 helped lead the team to the title of the 2018 Invitational

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